



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
**MARINE CORPS RECRUITING COMMAND**  
3280 RUSSELL ROAD  
QUANTICO, VA 22134-5103

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
6100  
G-1  
13 Nov 01

COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY LETTER 5-02

From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command  
To: Distribution List

Subj: POLICY CONCERNING TREATMENT AND DISPOSITION OF MARINES  
DIAGNOSED WITH MENTAL DISORDERS ON RECRUITING DUTY

Ref: (a) DoD Directive 6490.1  
(b) DoD Instruction 6490.4  
(c) SECNAV Instruction 6320.24A  
(d) Volume III, Guidebook for Recruiting Station Operations  
(e) SECNAV Instruction 1850.4D  
(f) MCO P1900.16F (MARCORSEPMAN)

1. Situation. Marines assigned to recruiting duty perform one of the most demanding peacetime missions in the Marine Corps. Demanding missions like this create stressful situations for Marines and their families. Because Marines are trained to cope with stress, most recruiters excel during their tours on recruiting duty despite working in a stressful environment. Some Marines, however, are not able to cope with the stresses of recruiting duty. This inability to cope may adversely affect their mental health.

2. Mission. Commanders and other leaders throughout the Marine Corps Recruiting Command will take all necessary steps to reduce the stress attendant to serving on recruiting duty and will ensure that Marines whose mental health appears to be adversely affected by the daily stress of recruiting are expeditiously considered for referral to appropriately credentialed medical or mental health personnel for a mental health evaluation.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent. The Marine Corps invests significantly in every Marine before he or she is assigned to recruiting duty. By the time a Marine is assigned to recruiting duty, he or she has been extensively trained at Recruiters School to enable him or her to be a successful recruiter. Commanders provide the necessary leadership and guidance to sustain that success. Marines who have difficulty dealing with the high stress levels experienced on recruiting duty may also not be able to deal with other stress commonly experienced in the Marine Corps, particularly the stress of combat. Marines who are diagnosed with mental disorders which prevent them from succeeding will not be returned to the operating forces until and unless they are found to be fit for continued service in the Marine Corps.

Subj: POLICY CONCERNING TREATMENT AND DISPOSITION OF MARINES  
DIAGNOSED WITH MENTAL DISORDERS ON RECRUITING DUTY

End state: All Marines assigned to recruiting duty successfully complete their 36-month tours and return to operating force commands to resume duties in their primary MOSs (except those who become Career Recruiters).

b. Concept of Operations

(1) Commanders will ensure that Marines who are experiencing difficulty coping with the stress of recruiting duty are provided the treatment they need to handle stress, if necessary, along with the leadership and support required to help them succeed.

(2) References (a), (b), and (c) provide information and procedures to be followed when referring military personnel for mental health evaluation. They include the requirement that a Marine's commander, commanding officer, or officer in charge (hereafter CO) consult with a mental health professional before referring the Marine for a mental health evaluation. They also include a requirement that the Marine be provided written notice of the referral, which shall include, among other things, a brief factual description of the behaviors and/or verbal expressions that cause the CO to determine a mental health evaluation is necessary. In addition to procedural requirements, these references include information regarding the Marine's rights and responsibilities when referred for a mental health evaluation. In all cases, COs should consult with a judge advocate at the respective region before referring a Marine to medical personnel for a mental health evaluation.

(3) Marines who are diagnosed by non-Navy medical personnel with mental disorders that prevent them from successfully completing their tours of recruiting duty will be immediately referred to Navy medical or mental health personnel for a confirming diagnosis. They will be transferred under temporary additional duty (TAD) orders to the nearest Navy Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) for evaluation by Navy medical personnel. Use the following MTFs: Naval Medical Center, San Diego, for the Southwest; Naval Hospital, Bremerton, for the Northwest; Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, for the Southeast; National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, for the Northeast; and Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, for the Mid-West/Central United States.

(4) Marines who are diagnosed by Navy medical or mental health personnel with mental disorders that prevent them from successfully completing their tours of recruiting duty will be relieved for good of the service (GOS) per the guidelines in reference (d). They will be retained on station, if they do not require further treatment, and be evaluated to determine whether or not they are fit for continued service in the Marine Corps. If they require continued treatment, they will be referred to the nearest MTF and, if required, processed for separation via the Disability Evaluation System (DES). Reference (e) pertains. If they are found to be suffering from a personality disorder that prevents them from functioning effectively in a military environment, and the

Subj: POLICY CONCERNING TREATMENT AND DISPOSITION OF MARINES  
DIAGNOSED WITH MENTAL DISORDERS ON RECRUITING DUTY

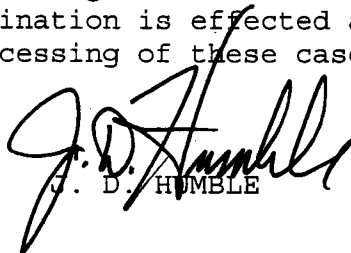
disorder is not severe enough to require processing via the DES, they will be retained on station and processed for administrative separation per reference (f). Marines who are relieved from recruiting duty because of diagnosed mental disorders will not be returned to operating force commands unless they are found fit for full duty by Navy medical personnel.

4. Administration and Logistics

a. Appropriate changes will be made to reference (d) to incorporate this policy.

b. TAD costs for transfer of Marines to MTFs will be paid by district commanders.

5. Command and Signal. Command relationships remain the same. Approval authority for relief for GOS is unchanged. Commanders are enjoined to ensure close and continuous coordination is effected among MTF, Region and District personnel in the processing of these cases.

  
J. D. HUMBLE

Distribution: A/D